

The Point

The Fitchburg State College Newspaper

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Spring 2003

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Week of April 3rd

Called to War

8 Students activated for
Military action



By Orlando Claffey

Months and years of training for the men and women of our nation's military has come down to this; the siege of Baghdad. Thousands of National Guard and Reservists have left their homes and families, called up to fight in a war a world away. Fitchburg State is not immune. Since September 2001, falcon students have played an active role in homeland defense, guarding airports, military bases and important facilities throughout Massachusetts.

Even now, as images of war flash across our television screens, several students may be closer to the action than we can imagine. At least eight students from Fitchburg State have been activated this semester and could be in the sandy maelstrom of Iraq.

According to Student Affairs, these student-soldiers have withdrawn from classes this semester do to military activation: Benjamin Brideau, Andrew Dupuis, Todd Fredriksen, Michael Jeffreys, David McKenna, Kerri Pajer, Robert Raboin and Scott Tracy. The list only reflects the most recent group of students called away, and doesn't include dozens of students that didn't have a chance to enroll for this semester because of earlier call-ups.

For or against the war, support for the Fitchburg troops and the entire military has been strong on campus. Outside the student activities office in the Hammond Building hangs a free speech banner, where students have etched their thoughts about the war, but a common theme is supporting the troops. Even the volunteer center has gotten into the action, asking students to sign cards to be mailed to Falcon fighters overseas. Strong support, from a campus divided.

Fitchburg Sentinel 'careless' with FSC closing claims

By Natalie Wisenbaker

Fitchburg's Sentinel & Enterprise created quite a stir on the FSC campus Wednesday, March 26 with a large front page headline citing a government report that closing the school would save the state \$44 million. According to Fitchburg State College spokesperson Michael Shanley, the Sentinel was guilty of "careless journalism" which was "damaging and disconcerting to us." "The Sentinel, which on the whole gives the college generous and generally positive coverage, erred on this one, in my opinion," said Shanley.

"The headline is very misleading," said Shanley. He pointed out the second sentence of the story "quickly rebounds" from the eye-catching lead statement. At issue is a report compiled by consultants with Bain & Co., formerly owned by Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. The report was designed to suggest ways the state could eliminate a \$3 billion budget deficit and includes discussion on closing four college campuses, including Fitchburg State College.

Shanley confirmed that the Sentinel article was not in error when read in its entirety, but pointed out the story itself was "old news" having been published in Boston papers for over a week now.

"The fact is, we have assurances from everyone, Romney on down, that Fitchburg State College will not be closing," Shanley said.

The Bain report appears to be in sharp contrast to the U.S. News and World Report ratings of colleges and universities. In its 2003 edition, Fitchburg State College received "the highest ranking achieved by any of the state's seven comprehensive state colleges," according to a report in the Sentinel on Thursday September 19, 2002. "The rankings are based on academic reputation, retention rates, graduation rates, class size, student-faculty ratio, SAT scores, and Alumni giv-

ing," the Sentinel stated.

When asked if the Bain Report might be a way of making a possible merger with Mount Wachusett Community College a more palatable option, Shanley replied that "there is certainly a lot of political jockeying going on," but added that the merger idea "appears to be shrinking fast."

In defense of Bain, Shanley said they are a "reputable company" that had "little time and little access to information." The report "was approached as a first go through." Even their numbers were "bogus" Shanley claimed, adding "\$44 million is ludicrous when FSC only receives \$26 million from the state." Shanley also noted that the Boston papers that carried

the story last week appropriately relegated the school closing issue to the bottom of their report since the idea was axed before the story ever leaked.

"Our institution is among the strongest in the state," Shanley pointed out, and "we are the economic engine that drives the local economy." In an email that Shanley sent to all FSC employees Thursday March 27 as a follow up to the Sentinel article, he boldly proclaims that "Fitchburg State College is not closing- not this year, not next

year, not next decade. New administrations and budget woes come and go, but Fitchburg State will remain stronger than ever."

"Fitchburg State College is not closing- not this year, not next year, not next decade."
-Michael Shanley

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Levine
Managing Editor

C'mon everybody keep it together. We are almost there. Six weeks is all that remains. Just think, six weeks from now, you won't have to worry about going through hours of class to end up grabbing a quick bite to eat at Daka. No more cable with 41 channels, where only like a quarter of them are even remotley (no pun intended) enjoyable to watch. I mean geez, by the time we are done with school the Red Sox will be in first place and the Celtics will be in the middle of a sweet playoff run. Believe me it is going to be nice summer; you just have to hold on for a few more weeks.

I don't know what it is, but this summer to is more anticipated than any other I can remember, for me at least. I think this time of year people start to get a little bit homesick and very annoyed by the daily and incredibly busy routine we ALL endure during the school year.

No offense to you, because you probably don't have a choice, but wouldn't you rather be kickin' it at the beach instead of say reading The Point in the commuter café, your dorm, or before class. I will tell you one thing, I'd rather be chilling with my friends regretting a week of work ahead of me than on a Sunday night like this one, being here, now regretting a week of class that is approaching.

This is not me complaining. This time of year, as it is finally entering back into sandals and iced-coffee weather, the glass is definitely half full

(although on the last day of classes, the glass will surely be completely empty...if you know what I am saying). There is much to look forward to. Let's face it; the Spring & Summer is just plain more fun than Fall & Winter.

So here we are, six weeks to go. I can pass along a good quote and attitude that I have personally been living by the past semester. It comes from a favorite hip-hop song of mine, penned the man called Nas. It says, 'Fight till the Fight is over.' Think about it. It is a good attitude to live by. It says to me, 'keep going, it is worth the effort.' Say as I sit in class, usually not paying too much attention, wishing I was at home with a beer in hand and Netflix DVD (seriously, check it out, Netflix.com) on the tube, that phrase lets me re-focus. It is a friendly slap in the face and a realization needed to make it through the tedious schedule of class and everything else.

Unfortunately, as we all desire things to become easier, the school works tends to pile up towards the end of the semester. Professors have this innate way of sometimes spending an entire semester teaching, but then the last month breaking out the real hard assignments like the aforementioned sandals and iced-coffee. Must be something in the air.

In closing, just keep moving; May will be here before you know it. Establish the fear of finals. Initiate the ambition to go enjoy the beautiful weather. Look forward to seeing your friends from home again on a daily basis. Most importantly though, 'Fight till the Fight is over.'

The Point

is looking for new members.

Positions open for :

- Writers
- Photography
- Business Manager
- News Editor
- Editorials Editor
- Production/layout

Meetings are held on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. in room BC17 in the basement of the Hammond Building (hallway past mailboxes).

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The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and a phone number, in case of questions.

Announcements should be short, including

dates, places, times, and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion, does not necessarily represent the views of The Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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MASSPIRG Celebrates 30 Years of Community Action

By Tim Card

On Feb. 27, seven FSC students went to the MASSPIRG 30th anniversary party, at the Omni Parker House, in Boston. MASSPIRG was founded in 1972 by socially progressive students at Umass Amherst. The reception showed an impressive array of public interest victories by MASSPIRG students, proving that college students really can make a difference. Some of the speakers included State Secretary of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand, Congressman Ed Markey and MASSPIRG Executive Director Janet Domenitz. Congressman Markey had to give his speech from Washington, because a key vote on cloning was coming up in the House. His speech was televised live on two giant projection screens. Congressman Markey said "MASSPIRG is the greatest organization for the public interest in the United States today." Bob Durand assured MASSPIRG members that he would work to persuade the Governor to veto any efforts to eliminate MASSPIRG's funding system.

Last year, the State Legislature passed a rider on a funding bill to prevent college students from voluntarily contributing to MASSPIRG. Governor Swift eliminated the provision, after students sent her dozens of letters supporting MASSPIRG.

After the speeches, The John O'Connor Citizen Achievement Award was presented to Terri Swearingen. Terri fought long and hard for the closing of the WTI waste incinerator, in East Liverpool Ohio. The incinerator was only 400 yards from East Elementary School, and it is well known that incinerators produce poisonous dioxins and mercury, which causes brain damage in children. Then Vice President Al Gore said the incinerator

should be shut down, but he didn't act to ensure that it would be. Finally, Ralph Nader got involved and decided to run against Gore in the subsequent election. Al Gore went on to lose Ohio's 21 electoral votes, which would have been sufficient to win the presidency.

The cancer rates in East Liverpool were 40% higher than the national average, and children were shown to have hazardous levels of mercury. Terri's efforts led to new EPA incinerator standards to limit dioxins and heavy metals. Moreover, the Governor of Ohio declared a moratorium on new incinerators. Terri's successful efforts showed how much one determined person can accomplish and set a fine example for MASSPIRG students to follow.

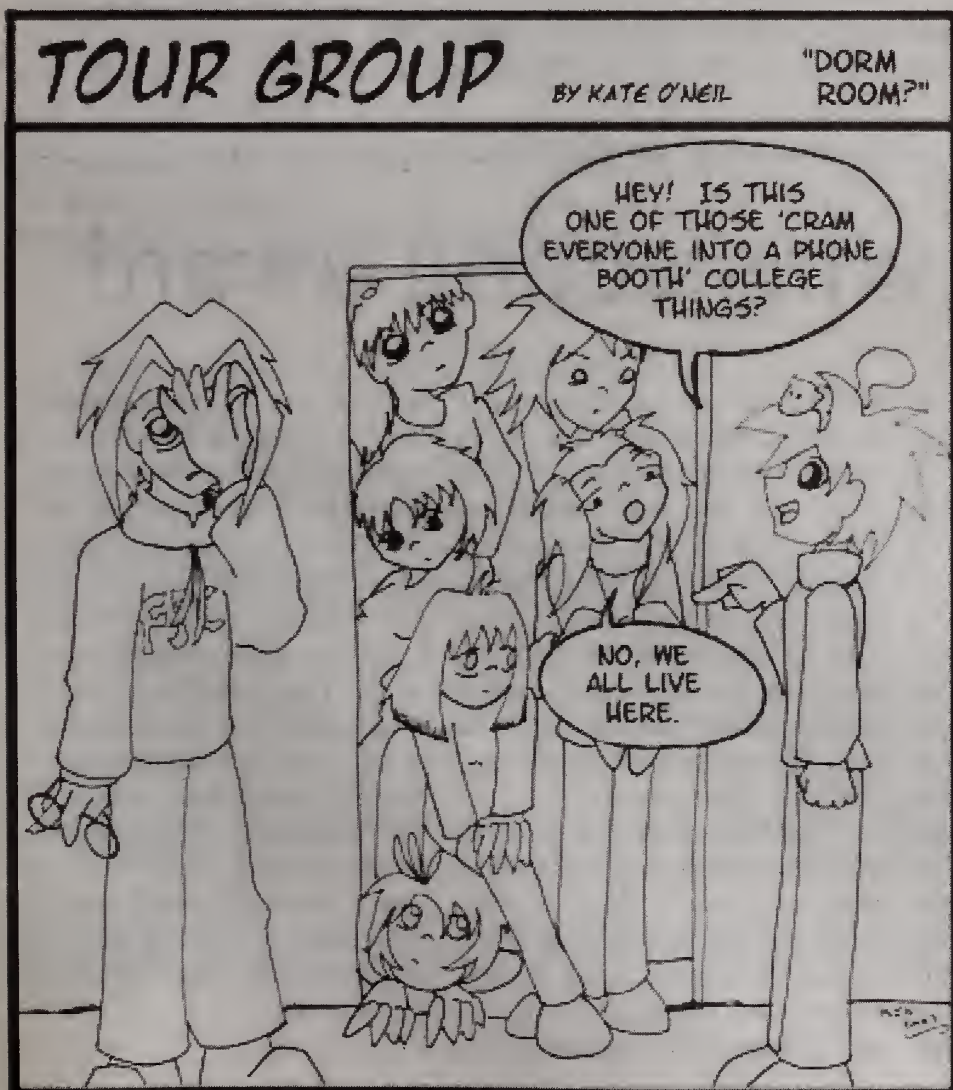
MASSPIRG has an impressive record of public interest victories. In 1986, we paved the way for the Toxics Use Reduction Act, requiring industries to disclose their use of hazardous chemicals and their plans for using less in the future. As a result of this law, the use of the most toxic substances has been reduced 20%. With pressure from MASSPIRG, the state imposed limits on the levels of mercury and carbon dioxide a power plant can release, in 2001.

Some of MASSPIRG's more familiar achievements include helping the passage of a bill to show the expiration dates for food, the Generic Drug Law and the Lemon Law, which requires car dealerships to give refunds for defective new cars. We also have created consumer information campaigns, such as TruthAboutCredit.org, a campaign to warn students about Spring Break rip-offs, and a Toy Safety campaign. Seeing what a difference one organization can make is really heartwarming, when you are used

to seeing so much terrorism, war and crime on TV. It makes you realize that there are good people in this world fighting to make our lives better.

Fitchburg State SGA members in attendance included Betsy Brunelle, Danielle Corsino and Shawna Robert. FSC MASSPIRG students at the anniversary party included Greg Bouchard, Tom Bousnakis, Tim Card and Danielle Corsino. Naturally, our campus organizer, Clint Talbert was there, and he made it into the anniversary booklet for his highly successful "Fill the Chair" drive in Gardner. MASSPIRG Campus Programs Director Chris Lindstrom came to meet the students and invite us to a get-together after the reception. Our students also met Luke Swarthout, President of the Executive Committee. Student members elect the Executive Committee at our board meetings, where we also receive training and vote on campaigns or proposals. Students going to MASSPIRG board meetings only pay for food and are provided with lodging and entertainment opportunities for the weekend.

One of the great things about being involved with MASSPIRG is that it is a wonderful way to make new friends. If you are a member and go to the board meetings, you get to know people from across the state. Recently, I went to a job fair at Williams College, and sure enough, one of my friends from MASSPIRG was there. It's a fun organization, and it has an exemplary track record of success in working for the public interest. We are creating a MASSPIRG Fitchburg website, so that interested students can find out more. On April 12, we are having a community service day, including work at homeless shelters and a river cleanup. Anyone interested can sign up on Tuesdays in the G-Lobby or leave a message with Clint, our MASSPIRG organizer.



'Let's Make A Deal because The Price Is Right'

By: Julie Jepsen

On Mar. 6, FSC held "Let's Make a Deal because The Price Is Right." The event was based upon two television game shows, which were combined to form a very fun filled and enjoyable evening for all of those who attended. The Office of Campus Living sponsored this event, was put together by the Senior RA's and performed by all the RA's on campus. It was free admission for all of those who donated a canned good.

The event started off with the television game show, "The Price is Right," with Michael Courtney as Bob Barker. "I was a little more comfortable being 'Bob' this year since I did it last year. It was really nice to get all the support from my residents, which made my



experience a lot better," stated Courtney.

Ticket numbers would be called to determine the three contestants who would be competing for the fabulous prizes. The show carried on as the game show does with the bidding of items. Some of the games the contestants played Switch-A-Roo, Punch out, High or Lower, Cover-up, Pick-A-Pair, Football toss and Plinko.

In between each winner, those who weren't selected were eligible

to play the television game show, "Let's Make a Deal." Kelly Wilson and Patricia Griffin played the role of Monty Hall from the game show. For those of you who have never seen this show, the announcer would ask the audience for weird items, and the first person to have the item would have a chance to win prizes behind three doors. Wilson and Griffin asked for such items as who has a mullet, a condom, an out-of-state drivers license, a retainer, a nasty scar, a Gateway business card and much more. The first contestant able to show the item got to choose from three doors of prizes.

There were all sorts of prizes, ranging from small to large. Some of the prizes won by the students were an I-zone camera, a clock, a set of bath towels, detergent, lava lamp, DVD player, tele-

vision, 35 mm camera, a vortex lamp and so much more. It was definitely an exciting and entertaining evening for those who attended. Kari Sawyer said, "it was a little scary being up on stage but once I started the game it was so much fun."

At the end of "The Price Is Right" there was a Showcase Showdown, which came down to two contestants. The two of them bid off for two different showcases and when it came to the end, Kevin Gallerani won. He won such prizes as a Laz-E-Boy recliner with ottoman, 2 pillows, a 20" television, a DVD player, Joe Boxer Knit Sheets, an iron and ironing board, a body mirror and a Dirty Devil vacuum. His winnings came to a total of approximately \$500-\$600.

Bryan Maddern wins acting award

By Natalie Wisenbaker

Watching "Gilligan's Island" as a kid, Bryan Maddern never knew that "Mary Anne" (Dawn Wells) would one day vote him first place in an acting competition, personally give him a \$750.00 scholarship, and then invite him to her ranch for a week long workshop/camp for future film actors. But that is exactly what happened at the recent ACTF Irene Ryan Acting Competition at Keene State in Keene, NH.

With over 200 actors representing the best from colleges throughout New England, Bryan had lots of company from other members of the drama circuit at FSC. While several

placed very high in the competition, Bryan was the only one to walk away with top honors. The category was "Best Scene Partner" and Bryan says it was a "seriocomic role," a cross between comedy and drama. Such a combination is just suited for this funny man who was voted "class clown" his Sr. year in High School. Bryan recently gave a stirring serious performance in "The Call of the Wild" a full-scale theatrical production directed by Richard McElvain of the FSC English Dept. Bryan and the cast from this show will be traveling to Scotland this summer where the play is entered in an international competition.

Originally from Johnston, Rhode

Island, Bryan is a junior and came to Fitchburg State College to pursue a degree in Communications / Film & Video. His older brother is also currently attending FSC. Unlike many aspiring actors or film majors, Bryan does not desire to live in New York or Los Angeles after graduation. Although he is uncertain about the direction he'll want to pursue, he knows he enjoys both "in front of" and "behind the camera."

A relative newcomer to the art of theater, Bryan did not begin acting until he started college at FSC. Since then has been quite busy with drama productions and theater troupes. His favorite, he says, was the "Combo #8" troupe he was in

last year with several friends from FSC. Their performance of "Reindeer Monologues" played in several local restaurants and clubs.

Bryan is currently working on another scene play with Nick Howe whom he had partnered with in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition this year. Their production of "True West" should run the first weekend in May. Watch campus boards for time and place announcements.

When Bryan was asked what is his favorite thing about FSC? "The people I've met!" he exclaimed. No doubt there are countless others who are glad to have met, and to know, Bryan Maddern.

Feeling Depressed? Lonely? Empty? Alone? Worthless?

Trying substitutes for joy and happiness but still feel empty?

Friend, God has a wonderful plan and purpose just for you! Yes, YOU! God, the creator of Heaven and earth, knows everything about you, even the number of hairs on your head, and has a plan and purpose for youif you decide to choose it. It's so much better than what you are currently settling for. God knows everything about you. The hurting you feel, troubles you're experiencing, every thought you've ever had, every deed you ever did, He knows it all (past, present and future). Do you think you deserve the life that you're living? Maybe you think you just don't make good decisions. Maybe you feel you don't deserve to have God's best? God wants you to know that YOU are special to Him. As your creator and Heavenly Father, He loves you unconditionally, despite any shortcomings you feel you have. Is the feeling mutual? You are special, not because of how people act toward you or what they say about you, but because God made you. That's right, YOU ARE SPECIAL BECAUSE GOD MADE YOU. Want to know more about this all loving God?

The Bible tells us *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16; NIV) Friend, take a minute to think about that. He loves you so much that he sent his one and only son, to die on a cross, pay the penalty for your sins (and mine), rose again 3 days later conquering death so that you could have eternal life (with Him). He can free you from bondage and has already paid the debt for your sins. All we need to do is accept the FREE GIFT that God has given us. You have a choice to make here and now. It's a choice that will affect you for eternity, and that's a very long time.

While most think death is the end, it's really just the beginning. The decision YOU make before you physically die, whether to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, will decide how you spend your eternity. You can have life in Christ. Do you want to be certain that your sins have been forgiven, know that you're going to heaven when you die, and have the freedom that only God can provide? Did you know that there is no sin so horrible that God will not forgive you for? If you were in a car accident today and died (no longer able to make that decision), are you 100% sure you'd go to heaven? Friend, we're not guaranteed tomorrow and eternity is forever.

"You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you. Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me." (Psalm 86:5-7; NIV)

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18; NIV)

We are not able to earn our way to Heaven through good works, but by simply accepting the free gift God has already given in His son Jesus Christ.

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" (John 14:6; NIV)

"Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?'" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." (John 6:28-29; NIV)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9; NIV)

Do you believe? What is your choice going to be? Do you want to know for sure you're going to Heaven when you die? Do you want God's best?

Do you want to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? This is not about finding religion or joining a church, but having a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

(1) Confess before God, "I am a sinner."

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23; NIV)

(2) Acknowledge there is a penalty for our sin.

"...But unless you repent, you too will all perish" (Luke 13:5; NIV)

(3) Believe Jesus paid our debt for sin.

"For Christ died for your sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18; NIV)

(4) Accept Jesus into your heart as your personal Lord and Savior.

"for 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Romans 10:13; NIV)

If you want to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, you can simply pray something like this (it doesn't have to be exact):

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner, and the penalty for sin is death. I ask your forgiveness for all of my sins. I believe you sent your only son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cross, paying the penalty for my sins in full. I believe Jesus Christ rose again on the third day. I accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. Thank you for forgiving me of all my sins and making me new. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, or one like it, and accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, you've been "born again." You're now a brother or sister in Christ. We're praying and believing in God's best for you. We encourage you to tell others about Jesus and attend a church that teaches from the Bible (opens it up, reads, and teaches from it regularly). Tell them about your decision for Christ. They should be able to further guide you in your new life in Christ. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father (God), making intercession for us. You can develop a close relationship by reading the Bible (God's word) and praying (communicate) daily.

"...I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10; NIV)

If you do not own a Bible, have questions, would like prayer or more info, contact us at admin@cartsforchrist.org or via regular mail at Carts for Christ, Inc., P. O. Box 13, Lunenburg, MA 01462. We do not seek to promote a particular church or "religion," but to tell you of "the good news." We would like to encourage you in having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and if we can assist you in this way, please let us know. You can also visit our website, cartsforchrist.org (under construction), for more info. May God richly bless you.

There is a local non-denominational church that teaches from the Bible called "Horizon Christian Fellowship" (978-665-9111; www.hcff.net), minutes by car from the FSC Campus, located at 356 Broad St, Fitchburg MA 01420, next to Crocker Field (by the downtown Common). Their Sunday morning service is at 10 am and the Wednesday Bible study is at 6:30 pm. You can also listen in on WFGL 960 AM. You may also want to check out *Real Life* (College Christian Fellowship) on Mondays, 7:30 (Alumni Rm, in Hammond G-Lobby by hallway entrance to game room).

Got problems? Youth Crisis Hotline - Toll free and Confidential:

1-800-HIT-HOME (1-800-448-4663)

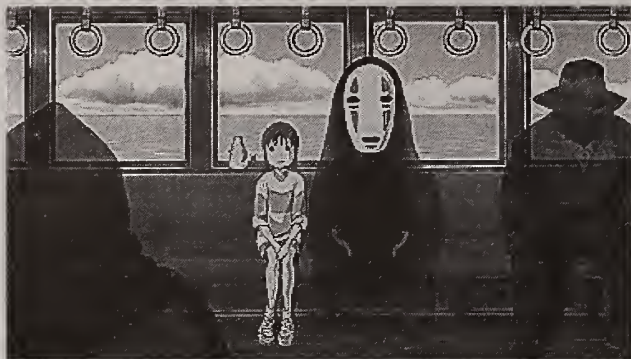
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Beautiful animation found in 'Spirited Away'

By Kate O'Neil

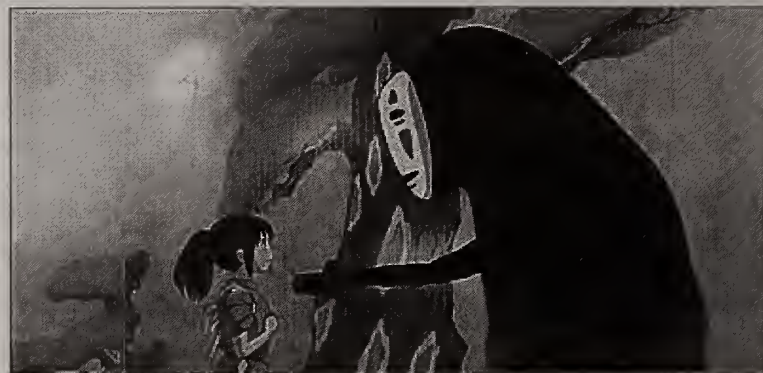
Chihiro is a ten year old girl, lonely and depressed because her family is moving to a new home in a new town. When her father takes a wrong turn and decides to go exploring through an old tunnel and around an abandoned amusement park on the opposite side, things take a turn for the worse. As night falls, Chihiro finds her parents turned into pigs. Strange creatures and monstrous spirits are looking for her, a human girl trespassing on their resort. To save herself and her parents, Chihiro seeks employment at a bathhouse owned by the witch Yubaba, and comes to realize the power of friendship and her own inner strength.

I was lucky enough last September to make it into Boston to see the latest masterpiece of animation by director Hayao Miyazaki. If you've never seen one of his films, then one word can be used to describe them, beautiful. Known for his strong female leads, incredible flight scenes, and of course the high quality of the animation. There's a level of detail and atten-



tion to it just not found in animated movies anymore. At least, not the traditional two-dimensional animation which Spirited Away is. Never one to talk down to his audience, the movie is smart, whimsical, and enjoyable no matter what the age of the viewer is.

If you missed it the first time, now is your chance to see this movie. It took hundreds of glowing reviews and an Oscar win for Best Animated Picture to get this movie a wide release. Disney is the company releasing this and many of Miyazaki's other movies stateside. John Lasseter, the Pixar guy behind Monsters Inc. and Toy Story was in charge of the dubbing for this movie, and it's fantastic. All of the characters sound natural and in some cases better than the Japanese voice actor. While the movie might be strange and somewhat different then most traditional American animated movies. If you are a fan of animation, this movie is a must see, don't miss your second chance to catch it!



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'Dreamcatcher' movie doesn't live up to the expectations set by the book

By Roger Roy

Based upon the novel of the same name by Stephen King, "Dreamcatcher" is a run of the mill horror sci-fi movie with quality. "Dreamcatcher" tells the story of four



friends who did a heroic act in their youth that changed their lives forever. Years later, on a trip in the Maine woods, they are overtaken by a storm in which something much more ominous moves. The friends must prevent the slaughter of innocent civilians by a military vigilante that threatens their own lives, as well as the alien that lurks in one of them.

Directed and co-written by Lawrence Kasdan ("The Big Chill"), this well made film lacks in the story. It is true that adaptations are never faithful adaptations, this is that same case. Losing some of the importance of the background between the group of friends, we are propelled into a forest in the middle of winter. Not knowing too much about the friend's past, we are taken into the story main plot. An alien invasion has come to Maine in hopes to spread. The military head on this campaign (Morgan Freeman) has been fighting these aliens for the last 25 years. Knowing how to destroy them, his obsession has grown into insanity. The four friends all have a certain power to read minds, during a few flashbacks, the only way the story could have character development, and we learn what holds these four friends together.

What I would say killed the movie for me is the character development. It was left until the end to show some big surprise, but it was predictable and overdone. Used too many times in the exact same way, I just wanted to end the movie a good 30 minutes before it even happened.

I am sure that a true fan of Stephen King's work will be sadly disappointed in this film.

Multi-story line drama '24' is a fresh break from the rest of today's TV

By Roger Roy

The first season of "24" was about how Counter Terrorist Unit (C.T.U.) agent Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland) tried to stop the assassination attempt of presidential candidate David Palmer (Dennis Haysbert). Meanwhile, Jack's wife Teri (Leslie Hope) searches for their missing daughter, Kim (Elisha Cuthbert), who sneaked out of the house after midnight that same day.

This season, Jack returns to C.T.U., after a 16-month leave following his wife's death, to stop a terrorist threat of a nuclear bomb. President David Palmer must

help stop the threat by using all his possible resources, while being pressured by his ex-wife to save his presidency. Kim was an au pair to a little girl whose father is psychotic, she does the only logical choice and protects herself and the little girl from him, upon doing so, she is framed from murder of the little girl's mother.



It is a lot to take in but the mutli-storyline show is a positive difference from some of today's shows, using the whole season to show just one day in someone's life. "24" must be watched carefully, because missing on episode means you could miss a major plot twist. For a good change in television, watch "24" with the intent to never want to watch television the same way again.

'How could something like this happen?'

By Samuel C. Lurie

The film, "The Life of David Gale" undoubtedly forms this question in the minds of all its viewers. Gale, a philosophy professor, played by Kevin Spacey, is on death row for the murder of one of his colleagues. His sentence is ironic because Gale belongs to a group called Death Watch which protests against capital punishment.

Three days before his sentence is carried out, Gale chooses to tell his story to the press for the first time. But Gale doesn't open himself up to all. He chooses Bitsy Bloom (Kate Winslet) and gives her three exclusive interviews. Gale knows it will be impossible to prove his innocence, however he only wishes to use Bloom to preserve his son's memory of a good father.

Bloom, who like many others, believes Gale is guilty, begins to change her mind as the time draws near to Gale's death. A mystery ensues as

Bloom attempts to uncover the truth and find the real killer. Clues, such as a video-tape of the murder, are left for Bloom as she scurries to solve the puzzle before it is too late for Gale.

Spacey captures the true spirit of Gale, a man that has lost his friend, family and life as is wrongly accused of murder. Gale's philosophy background play an important part in the film as he makes references to likes of great thinkers as Immanuel Kant, Aristotle and Socrates as well as many others.

Viewer emotions are jolted into effect as single words are flashed across the screen. These words, love, hate, guilty, etc., hit the audience before particular scenes forcing viewer to see the story through the eyes of not Bitsy Bloom, but through David Gale himself.

This movie brings viewers into the mind of Bloom as she attempts to put together the pieces of this life or death puzzle before it is too late.

ATTENTION SENIORS

There is still time to reserve your spot for Senior Weekend 2003!!

Senior Weekend 2003 highlights:

Red Sox Game vs. Angles,

Senior Barbecue,

25 Hour Nova Scotia Cruise

Reserve your spot at the Info
Desk TODAY!!

\$50 deposit due at time of reservation.

Professor Profile Series Edition three

Irene Martyniuk English Department



Photo by Beth Heinle.

By Melissa Ganley

We all know what classes professors teach during the day, and perhaps at night, but have you ever wondered what else they do with their time? Surly they don't just come to campus, teach a few classes, go home grade papers, and prepare lessons for the next day; most have projects they work on, on and off campus, as well as various groups that are involved with. Irene Martyniuk is no exception to this.

A professor in the English department, Martyniuk has been at FSC for seven of her twelve years in teaching. She has taught a number of different English courses since coming to FSC; however her specialty is in twentieth century British Literature. In fact, several years ago she created the British Literature since World War II course that is now offered.

Martyniuk has never been a stranger to the college atmosphere. She grew up in Kent Ohio, a town that "existed only for the university." Growing up across the street from the university and with both parents working there, it

was obvious that when the time came she would attend Kent State University. Martyniuk received both her undergraduate and masters degrees at Kent State. Later she went on to receive her PHD from the University of South Carolina.

Martyniuk spends a good portion of her time doing work with the Leadership Academy. In addition to teaching English classes and co-teaching in the Leadership Academy, she spends a few evenings a week working for the Graduate department as both a professor and an advisor.

Outside of the classroom Martyniuk is also working on a project that will create a disabilities studies minor. "Of all the things I am presently involved with, this one is probably the most near and dear to my heart," said Martyniuk.

The school has "community connections" grant that brings people from Russia, Ukraine, and the former Soviet Union who work with people with disabilities to FSC and allows them to shadow professionals from FSC. She was asked to be involved because of her background; Martyniuk is Ukrainian. This project has given her the opportunity to travel abroad to Ukraine.

"It was pretty incredible to go to a tiny village and see where my father grew up and see some of my family," said Martyniuk. This project has hit close to her heart because it has involved not only something she feels passionate about, disability studies, but also gives her the opportunity to travel to the country her family is from, and learn more about it.

Outside of FSC, Martyniuk attends weekly seminars held at Harvard University about different Ukrainian issues. The university has a research center that does work with Ukrainian studies; she has worked as an associate to the university and done research with them in the past.

All these academic based activities aren't the only things that fill Martyniuk's time; she also hits up the gym regularly and is currently taking a yoga class once a week.

So the next time you're wondering what else your professors do with their time, you can rest assured that they all do have lives outside of the classroom we see them in. Irene Martyniuk happens to have her hands involved in several activities here on campus, as well as several off campus.

ENGLISH CLUB TO ELECT OFFICERS

By Eileen Hamm

At the next meeting of the English Club, members will elect the officers for the 2003-2004 school year. All English majors and minors are encouraged to attend this meeting to make their selection from the list of candidates.

This meeting will also finalize plans for the last events of the semester. Some of these events include:

Poetry Reading Night on April 9th at 8:00 p.m. in the Underground Pub,
Welcome day for new Freshman English Majors on April 24th

Induction Ceremony for the newly elected officers on April 16th,
A final "Meet The Author" event for April, and

Star Search Talent Show — April 22nd,

23rd, and 24th.

Everyone is welcome to join us at this meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2nd at 3:30 p.m. in Miller Hall Lobby. Attend this meeting and cast your vote for the English Club Officers for 2003-2004.

Warner Bros. To film 'The Perfect Fire'

By: Stephanie St. Jean

Warner Brothers and Imagine Entertainment are planning on shooting a movie entitled "The Perfect Fire," a movie about the Worcester warehouse fire on December 3, 1999 that took the lives of six firemen. The movie is based on a book "3000 Degrees: The True Story of a Deadly Fire and the Men Who Fought It," written by Sean Flynn of Worcester. This book was released last March.

A spokesperson from Warner Bros. in New York City stated, "We have heard nothing about this movie being made, and therefore have no comment."

The fire in Worcester was a tragedy for the entire area. Until that time there had been no area fire as devastating as the one on December 3, 1999. The fire had started in an abandoned warehouse when a homeless couple got into an argument and knocked over a candle. The candle then lit a pile of clothing on fire, which the couple had tried to put out. When they couldn't do that they left the warehouse, the tiny fire still burning. Since the warehouse was so old, and extremely drafty due to no windows, the fire grew and was soon a blazing multi alarm fire. A neighbor had told firefighters people were in the building so a few firefighters went in. When they didn't come out a few others went in. The six that had entered the building never came out alive.

The movie has not been given the green light yet; there is no cast yet for the movie, and the director, Michael Mann has stepped down. But this hasn't stopped Warner Bros. from spending plenty of money on the special fire effects for the movie. Warner Bros. is now searching for a new director.

An article in the Worcester Magazine had quoted a child of one of the deceased firefighters, "I don't want to see how dad died." And who would? Why would these families or the firefighters want to watch a movie about a fire that changed their lives so drastically?

After trying to contact two Worcester fire chiefs to no avail, I called the Fitchburg Fire Dept on North St. and spoke to a firefighter there. He chose to remain nameless but did offer a few comments on this movie being made. "It's something that shouldn't be recreated. It was bad enough for the Worcester guys; everything they went through is a huge tragedy. The families lost their husbands, fathers, and sons."

Imagine this, two years from now you read a headline about 9-11 being made into movie, or even the Rhode Island fire. It's hard to think of that ever happening but we know it's possible. "Recreating the warehouse fire is like recreating 9-11 or Rhode Island. How do you recreate something as tragic as that? Some things should just be left alone, and the warehouse fire is one of them," stated a Fitchburg firefighter.

Specifics about the movie are not yet known, but Warner Bros. has not received the cooperation of Worcester, or five of the families. Only one of the six families is supporting the movie and viewing it in a positive light. If the Worcester firefighters won't cooperate then Warner Bros. plans to use Boston, and make it look like the movie is actually taking place in Worcester.

LAST POETRY READING NIGHT OF THE SPRING SEMESTER

By Eileen Hamm

This popular event sponsored by the English Club will be held on Wed., April 9th at 8:00 p.m. in the Underground Pub. Admission is free. New poets are always welcome. This is an opportunity to let others hear your poetry, prose, monologues, and short stories. Come and enjoy a relaxing evening with friends as you encourage and enjoy the writings of the talented students here at Fitchburg State College. This will be the last Poetry Reading Night of the semester, so don't miss out on this enjoyable experience.

STAR SEARCH SIGNUPS

By Eileen Hamm

As promised, the Star Search signup book is located in the information booth in the Hammond Building. When you sign in, be sure to list the act you will be performing such as: singing, dancing, comedy, monologues, duets, poetry, juggling, musical instruments, gymnastics, impersonations, magical tricks, etc. The competition is open to all members of the FSC community—students, staff, and faculty.

Two judges have already finalized their participation for this three-day competition. The judges are from local talent agencies in Boston and Worcester who specialize in working with talented individuals for placement in commercials, acting jobs, dancing positions, and modeling offers. This is a unique opportunity to not only have a chance to compete for a monetary prize, but also have a chance to be "discovered."

For more information, please contact Eileen Hamm through e-mail at ehamm@fsc.edu. Eileen can also be reached through her on-campus mailbox #3040 or by leaving a message at extension 6367.

Keep on Dancin' with the FSC Dance Club

By Amanda LeBeau

The Fitchburg State College Dance Club proudly presents it's 21st annual dance show Keep on Dancin'. The show dates are April 5th and 8th at 7PM in Weston Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 or \$3 with a canned good. They can be purchased in G-Lobby March 31st and April 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 8th between the hours of 9 and 4. Make sure to buy your tickets early, as the shows are the largest attended activity on campus. This year's show includes performances in lyrical, modern, tap, jazz, hip hop, funk, Irish step, and Latin. There will also be a short magic show as well as a raffle with several great giveaways. So don't miss out on this terrific night full of fun and excitement. The Dance Club thanks you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the show!

The Intramural Championships

According to Skip Daily

"DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS" --Manny Debarros

Defense did win the Division A Basketball Championship for Da Hood. Coming into the Championship of the double elimination tournament, Da Hood was facing a tough task. G-Unit had run through the tournament without a loss. That meant Da Hood would have to beat the G-Unit two games straight to win the Championship.

The G-Unit was strong and confident having knocked off both the top seeded Lone Rangers and the talented Da Hood in earlier playoff rounds. Da Hood was ready for revenge and came out gunning. In the first game, a last second buzzer beater by Hawk Johnson was the difference in the 54-53 Da Hood win.

The playoffs would have to be

delayed due to Spring Break.

The hype around the game would grow during the break, and the crowd was extremely excited to see two heavy weight teams fight it out in the rematch. Despite a valiant effort by Rashad Cope scoring 32 points, Da Hood was too tough. Manny DeBarros stated after the game, "Joe Howell (22pts.) was our catalyst and the role players real stepped up." Along with Johnson, Howell, and DeBarros, Da Hood had significant contribution from stars such as Emmanuel Allen, Jeff Clarke (6 pts.), Brian Murphy, and Jimmy Pimenta (eight assists).

This makes it three years in a



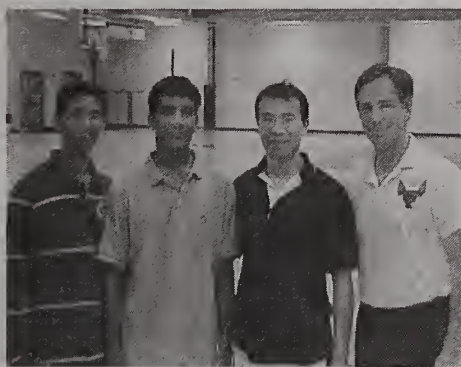
row that Manny DeBarros and Emanuel Allen have led their team to an Intramural Championship. My congratulations go out to them, who are champions both on and off the court.

Yannie and Wang win Inaugural Spring Break Badminton Tournament

It was a back and forth tournament which brought which brought international students and some talented faculty and staff members together for two days of fun. Once the preliminary rounds were over the teams left in the championship match were Shangyao Wang and Partner Noah Yannie vs. Sreedar Talakokkula and Vanama Kiran Kumar.

Having been undefeated in the tournament, Sreedhar and Kiran were poised for an easy victor. Shengyao and Noah had other things in mind. Having come out of the loser's bracket, they knew they had to beat Sreedhar

and Kiran two straight games, which would be difficult. Yannie and Wang would not let the long odds deter them.



The amazing skills of Shengyao came out in the finals. Between Shengyao's quickness, touch, and Noah's hustle, they took the first game easily 15-5. Sreedar and Kiran would not go down so easily in the second game. They worked hard, but the unbelievable shots by Shengyao slowly wore them down giving the victor to Wang and Yannie.

Stonecutters slice their way to a perfect season

After taking out the two time defending champion Originals, Sofa King Great was very confident going into the finals of the 2003 Indoor Soccer Championship. Captain Levi Remick was even quoted as saying, "I guarantee victory." Goal Keeper, David Claffey and the Stonecutters had other things in mind.

This game was tight; All Star Rachel O'Brien got the Sofa King Great out to an early 3-0 lead on two lasers from the top of the key and a great tap in off the pass from Kyle

Jenkins. Kathryn Marbough of the Stonecutters struck back with three goals of her own to give them a slight edge. From there it went back and forth with goals from (Stone Cutters) Corey Norton, Jeremy Seymour, as well as (Sofa King) Dana Jennings and Levi Remick. Regular time ended in a 5 to 5 tie, which was the lowest scoring game in Indoor Soccer Playoff history.

The game went into sudden death overtime and the Sofa King Great had a number of scoring

opportunities, but Claffey's will would not be broken. With one minute left in the second overtime, Stonecutter Robin Kanter rocketed a ball from half court into the top corner of Sofa King Great's goal. Stonecutters Derek Price and Keith Kantor were quoted as saying, "We have never seen a ball kicked so hard." Congrats, to all the teams that played in the league for your sportsmanship and effort.

Fitness Week Results

Fit Rock Challenge

Men

| | | |
|-----|--------------|------|
| 1st | Greg Duclos | 1:53 |
| 2nd | Mike Martell | 1:44 |
| 3rd | Pete Murray | 1:43 |

Women

| | | |
|-----|----------------|------|
| 1st | Jill Curran | 1:11 |
| 2nd | Michelle Soini | 1:09 |
| 3rd | Meg Sawyer | 1:00 |

Strong Man Competition

Men Event Winners

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Bench Press | Andrew Weeks |
| Leg Press | Andrew LeBlanc |
| Dips | Mark Giusto |
| Pull Ups | Andrew Weeks |
| Sit-ups | Pat Wood |

Overall Men's Winners

| | |
|-----|----------------|
| 1st | Andrew Leblanc |
| 2nd | Pat Wood |
| 3rd | Mark Guisto |

Woman Event Winners

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Bench Press | Shari Orlando |
| Leg Press | Shari Orlando |
| Sit-ups | Shari Orlando |
| | Jen Kurtinitis |

Overall Women's Winner

Shari Orlando

Assault & Battery tops Captain Morgans

Led by Patrick Francois' 16 points, the Assault & Battery were determined to will their way to a B Division Basketball Championship. Captain Ryan Miller was quoted before the game as saying, "We know the Captain Morgans are very talented, but we think we can out work them at both ends of the court." Out work them they did.

Chris Mancuso, Brian Walsh, and Isaac Binney hit the boards hard, each grabbing 10 plus boards. Miller (7 pts.) and Walker (10 pts.) were the Assault and Batteries other to scorers. Other notable contributors in the Assault and Battery line up were Courtney Kelly and Eric T-bo. Assault and Battery played with the toughness of champions.

Point SPORTS

Fitchburg State College Athletics

PointSport@Hotmail.com

Falcon bats fuel win over defending champions

The Men's baseball team kicked off their season with a bang, cruising past defending ECAC champions Babson College 24 to 16.

The Green team's high power offense was the highlight, belting five homeruns. Fitchburg's pitching, on the other hand, struggled. For the second straight game, Falcon hurlers have given up more than 10

runs and look to be the biggest weakness for a team that is looking to have a breakout year.

Fitchburg will host their first double header of the season when MASCAC rival, Massachusetts Maritime, comes to town Saturday, April 5.

The first game starts at noon and admission is free... because its Division III.

Rec. Center cools down after Health and Fitness week

By Robin L. Kanter

Health and Fitness week kicked off with a bang down at the Recreation Center. With various activities being held, there was an event for everyone. On Thursday, three on three basketball took place in the gym. It coincided with the NCAA tournament that is going on in the United States. The gym was packed with people full of energy to work out. On Wednesday, two clinics were held. They were Racquetball and Handball.

Noah Yannie, who is the Recreation Center Manager, ran the Handball clinic. Not only students but also faculty attended the clinic. Not many people signed up which offered some great one on one time with the instructor. Kill shots, lob serves, and the placement of the ball was just a couple of things that were taught.

There was a great turn out of men and women and friendships were made. The great part about this clinic was the all supplies were provided. Each person had to bring themselves and a pair of hands ready to workout! If you

missed this opportunity do not fret because there will be plenty of other times to play. There are always people interested in new competition.

The other clinic that was held was the Racquetball clinic with instructor Peter Murray. Murray is the coordinator of the Intramural Program. Handouts were provided at the beginning with instructions on how to play the game. After going over the important safety tips, the group was ready to play. There was a bigger turnout for the Racquetball clinic. When inside the court, we learned three different serves, the drive, the lobe, and the zigzag. After each person got the opportunity to try all three, the group broke off into pairs and played out a three-point match. After everyone got a taste for the game, we moved on to learn how to play doubles. Even for those who knew the rules learned a couple of tricks and maybe a fact or two that they had not known. It was a great time.

The rest of the week was occupied by different competitions.

Outdoor Advetures plans two more trips

By Orlando Claffey

Getting lost in the woods doesn't seem like a good idea, unless it is part of FSC's Outdoor Adventures.

For the past year, the club has travel to all corners of New England to climb mountains, scale sheets of ice and hike through the our distinctive Northeastern terrain.

Two more trips have been planned to close out the school year. On May 3 and 4, the club will be backpacking from Ashburnham, MA to Greenfield, NH along the historic Wapack Trail. The trek covers 21 miles as the group will reach an elevation of 6,200 feet. The trip costs only \$6 dollars.

The following weekend, students will be white water rafting down Maine's northern country rivers. The trip costs \$115 per person, which includes rafting, lodging, transportation and lunch in beatiful Dead River, ME.

The deadline for registration for both trips is April 30th. If you are interested in going, or need more information, contact Pete Murray at ext. 3613 or email him at pjmurray@fsc.edu. You can also visit the Outdoor Advernture site at <http://www.fsc.edu/outdooradventure/>.

High Flier



Photo by Pete Murray

Jeff Foggarty flies through the air during the mini-tramp Slam Dunk Competition at the Rec. Center March 27, as part of the two-day March Madness 3-3 competition. Tahir Core and Brian Harnish were co-champions of the dunk contest, and the 3-3 tournament continues April 7.



Are you one of the crazy thousands running the Boston Marathon April 21? Let us at Point Sports know and get yourself in the paper. Email the editor at: PointSports@Hotmail.com with your race number. Even if you are running as a bandit, let us know. Good luck... you're going to need it.